



# Utah Public Lands Initiative Update

August 20, 2015

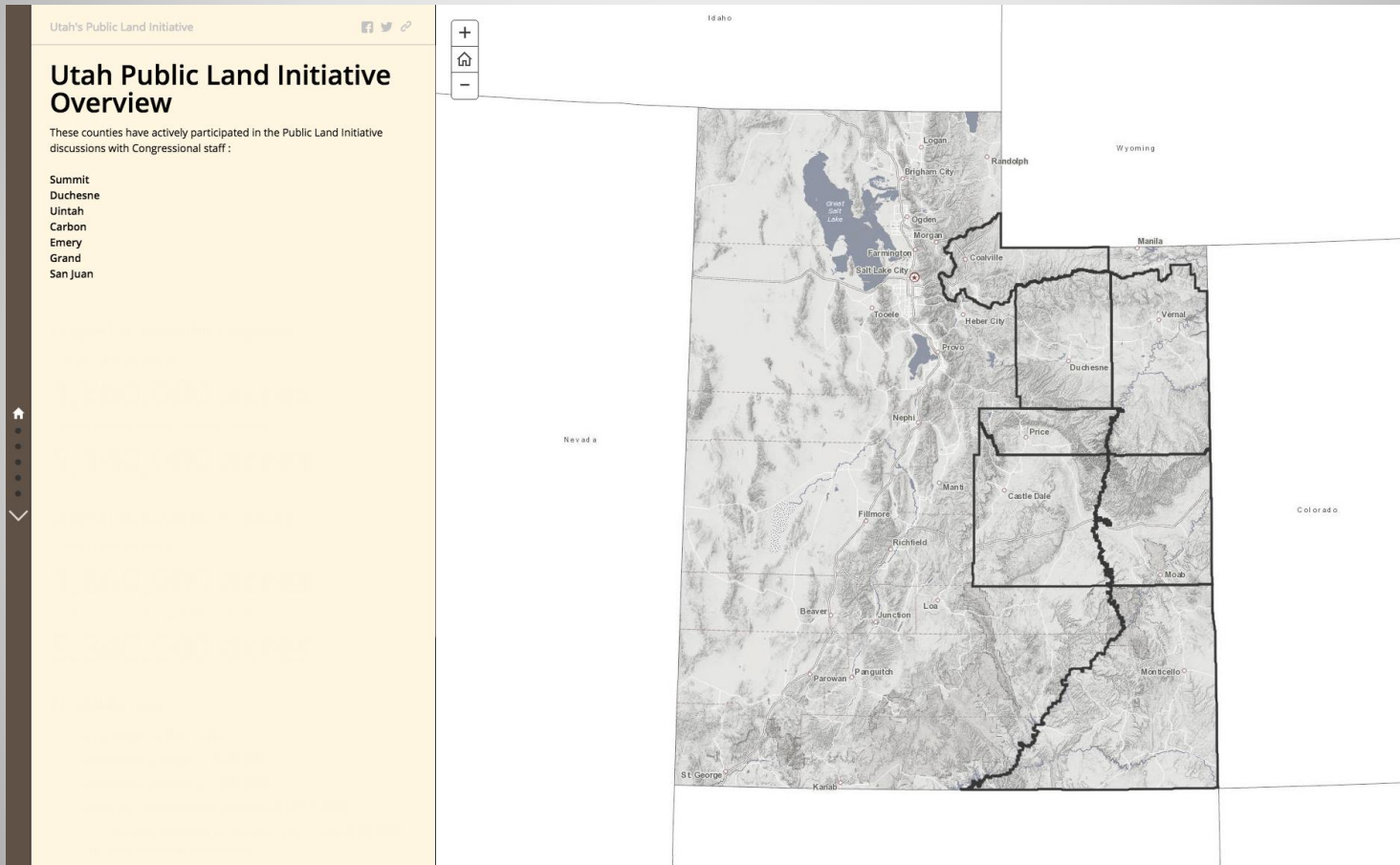
## **WHY PLI?**

- **Greater Certainty/Resolution**
- **Monument Protection**
- **Clear and Immediate County Gains**
- **Protects Areas that Warrant Protection**

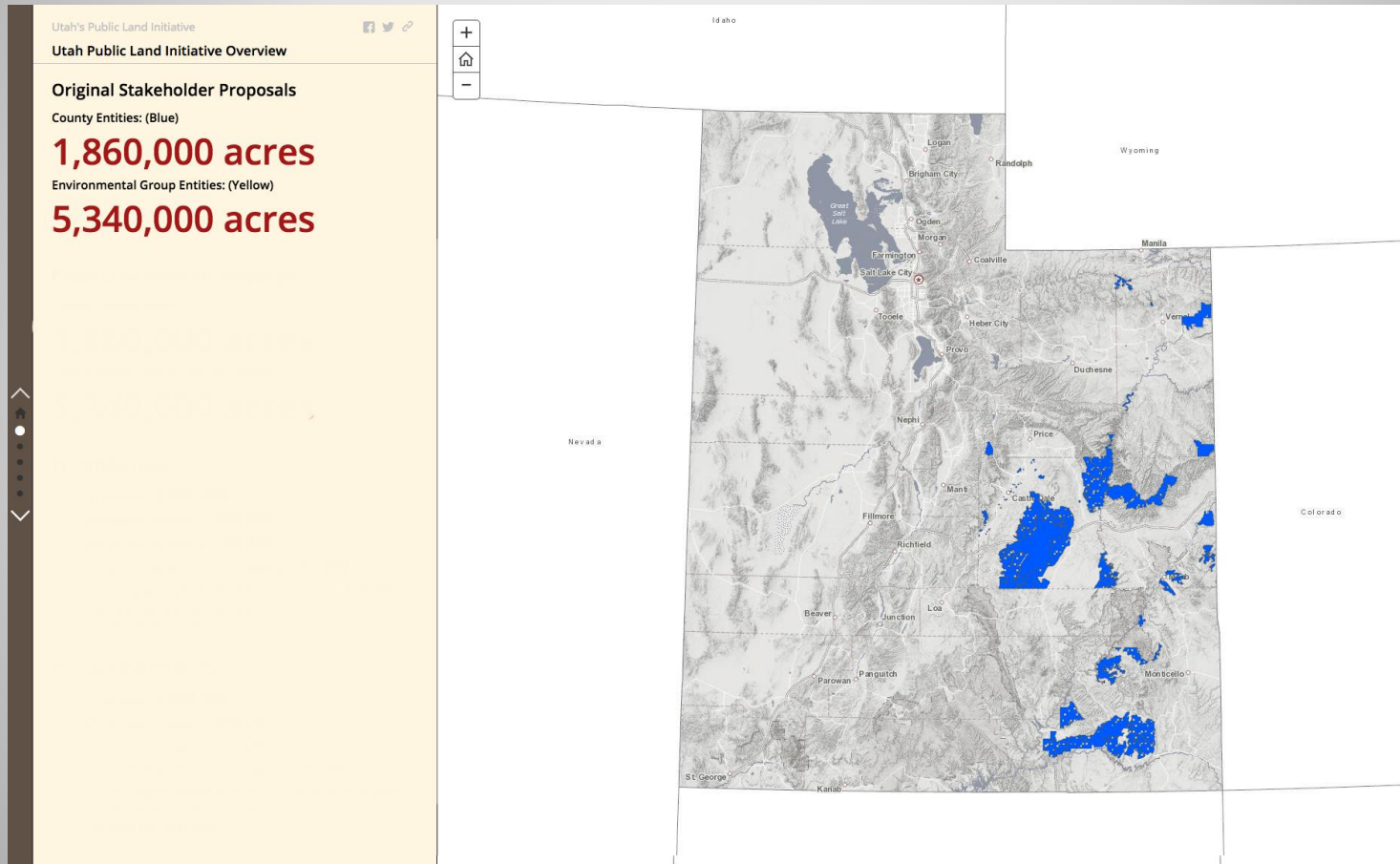
# Status

- 7 counties, ~18 million acre planning process
- Effort to balance energy, outdoor recreation, grazing, and conservation interests
- Utah based solutions to create certainty and end gridlock
- Unprecedented joint effort between Congressional delegation, Governor Herbert, State Legislature, local and tribal leaders, stakeholder groups, and citizens

# Where Are We Now

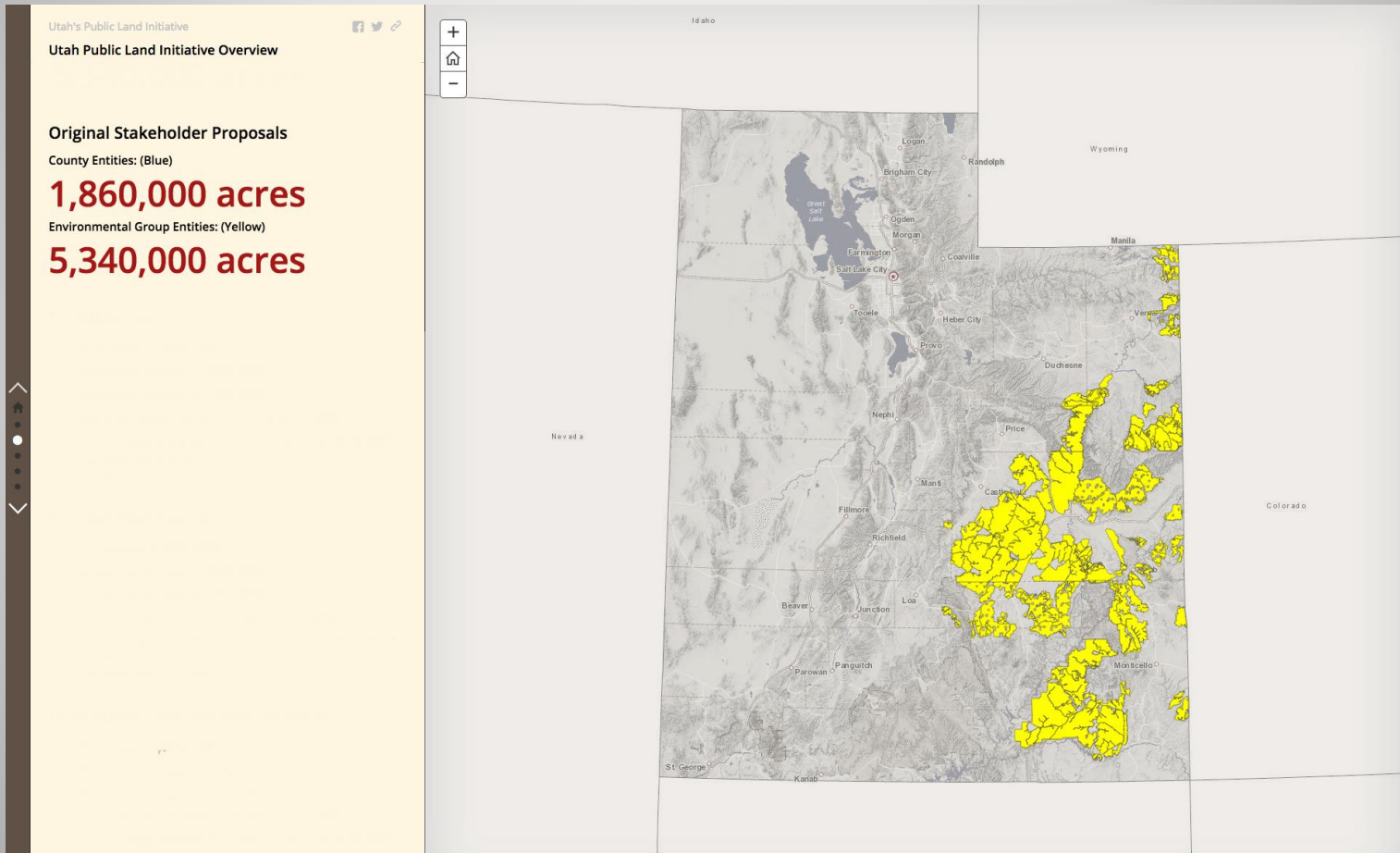


# Where Are We Now





# Where Are We Now



# Monuments

Internal Draft – NOT FOR RELEASE

## DISCUSSION PAPER Bureau of Land Management Treasured Landscapes

### Our Vision, Our Values

#### I. Introduction – BLM's Vision for Treasured Landscapes in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Of the 264 million acres under BLM management, some 130- to 140-million acres are worthy of consideration as treasured lands. These areas, roughly equivalent in size to Colorado and Wyoming combined, are valuable for their unspoiled beauty; the critical role they play in habitat conservation; their historical, cultural, and paleontological significance; and their importance in maintaining the proper functioning of the larger ecosystems in which they exist.

In order to preserve these treasured landscapes for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the BLM proposes to manage them not as individual parcels, but as components of larger landscapes, ecosystems, airsheds, and watersheds. We now know that these large-scale ecosystems, watersheds, airsheds, and migratory pathways exist and function only at their natural scales, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, in order to facilitate the transition from the current land management system, which is based on jurisdictional boundaries, to a modern landscape-level management system, the BLM proposes to "designate, rationalize, and manage-at-scale" its treasured landscape holdings.

Over the next 25 years, the BLM intends to: (1) finalize appropriate conservation designations and fully account for the ecosystem-services values of its lands; (2) rationalize and consolidate its fragmented landholdings; and (3) commit to planning and allocating resources and resource uses and at their natural scales, in effective coordination with other Federal, State, and Tribal governments. The BLM believes that together, the three components of this vision will allow us to utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century science to preserve our celebrated assets and guarantee that our treasured landscapes will be conserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

To achieve our Treasured Landscape objectives, the BLM will need to enlist the aid of the administration and Congress to ensure that we possess both the legal tools and financial means to make our vision of integrated landscape-level management a reality.

#### II. Background – BLM's Treasured Lands: Vast, Varied, and Vital

The BLM's lands include fragile ecosystems essential to rare animal and plant species, cultural resources that date back to the beginning of America's Native populations, stunning paleontological resources that increase our understanding of the natural world, breathtaking vistas and recreational areas, and nationally significant historic sites and trails that tell the story of our growing Nation.

The bulk of the BLM's existing treasured lands have been arrayed, by Presidential declaration, legislative enactment, or administrative management, into four separate management categories, together amounting to nearly 130-million acres—about half of BLM's total land portfolio:

# Why?

- Boost economic growth, job creation, energy security, and tourism
- Bring certainty to counties, organizations, companies, and citizens
- New approach to land planning
- Decisions may be made anyway
- Local leaders and citizens involved



# County Asks

- Energy Zones
- Antiquities Act Exemptions
- Release of Existing WSAs
- Utility Corridors
- Local Management of Conservation Areas
- Protection of Historic Uses
- Land for economic development

# What's Next?

